Hilary

NORTHERN UFO NEWS 125

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J.R.Comments.... Britain has been invaded by UFO-mania generated by the press. You can hardly have missed it.More cuttings in April/May/Jun appeared than have manifested in years.But hardly any gave a new UFO sighting,and even worse most were not about serious ufology.What went wrong?

It is ironic that at a time when Britain was about to publish two serious books about UFOs,the cover-up and extensive documentation,events conspired to ensure that relatively little attention was paid.Out of the 120 cuttings for those three months Tim Good has so far clocked up one good story,in 'The Observor',and I managed two local stories and a two-week series in the 'Sunday Mirror', all despite an exhausting three week tour all over Britain,doing radio and TV.

So what was the source of this mammoth hype? It is disturbing.Fully two-thirds of those cuttings related to the Aetherius Society, the crackpot bunch who believe that Jesus lives on Venus.By superb manipulation (plus a few lies) they achieved more attention than any UFO group has ever achieved in Britain.I still find it hard to imagine why some of the newspapers (utterly disinterested in REAL cases, or HARD EVIDENCE such as documentation) gave them the time of day.But they did. They turned the Aetherians into a national institution.

It would be impossible to summarise all the press attention.But here are some of the highlights.It began in the London Evening Standard on 7April where "Britains first ever UFO hotline" was announced.Essentially a phone over their shop in Fulham,it was to be manned 12 hours a day and promoted by a team of six P.R. officers,pouring out money to con the public into a belief that the Aetherius Society is serious.Where,you might ask,did this money come from? Spokesperson, Christine Aubry,actually told the paper."Cranks? I'm sure we'll get a few,so we will just have to disorimate carefully." What a pity the media did not pay heed to that!

In those early promotions for the 'Hot Line' (a clever gimmick) there was a little about the 'Fish Men',who had twice attacked the earth (but the martians saved us) and Ms.Aubry said of the messiah,"Jesus certainly came from venus,but I wouldn't like to say if he's there right now." Quite.

Even more amazing was that middle of the road NATIONAL newspapers featured this tripe; although cleverly toned down for them.TODAY, 11 April, even plugged the hotline number in a full page story ("It came from outer space - or did it?") It contained a 'UFO photo' from Rochdale,which last time I saw it (when I interviewed the wife of the photographer) had moved to Warrington, and looks like a light reflecting off the window through which it was taken.According to TODAY it was "Science Fact:- either a swirling star formation or an alien visitor". (?)

The Independent also did a story the same day.Again it was pretty sober in its treatment,based on an interview with "Dr John Holder" (billed as a Unit Trust advisor!) Amongst his 'claims',which is one way of describing them, was the interesting revelation that the Aetherius Society had 'discovered' a secret UFO department at the MoD run by a Mrs Titchmarsh.Aside from the fact they probably ripped this information off from 'Sky Crash',they conveniently forgot to explain that DS 8 is a junior clerical unit,that Mrs Titchmarsh never ran it,but was just a low grade minnion,and that she left in 1983! Of course,what other standards of reliability would one expect from a London 'Dr' who has seen more than 100 UFOs in his young life!

Over the next few weeks these loonies featured in national and respected major local papers,often mixing daft stories of mental contact with the Fish men with pseudo-serious talk about cover-ups and documentation THEY claim to have been responsible for obtaining.(I know at least one researcher who went to the trouble of calling the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington,to get the categorical assurance by them that the Aetherius Society were NOT responsible for the release of data on the Japan Air Lines sighting over Alaska last year,as they had claimed on BBC radio...the BBC,on being advised,were totally unconcerned)

On 24 April even New Society, a prestidgious magazine that never comments on UFOs,featured an opinion poll by the Aetherians,claiming that 16 per cent of the

population have seen a UFo and that 63 per cent "believed that spacecraft from other planets are visiting earth". I am quite sure the only group of people (serious ufologists NOT excluded) who would give a result that high would be Aetherius Society members.But, of course, no evidence for these amazing figures was provided.

And so it went on into May,the Daily Express,the Daily Mirror, yet more in the London press.The phone no. was repeated.Sightings 'poured in'.Even Dave Davies of the Kinks (whom Peter Hough tells me has promoted the Aetherians before) got in on the act.The number and size of the articles (almost all favourable in tone and almost none now mentioning the 'Fish men',martians or Jesus) was quite staggering.On 2 May,where the number was given yet again in the Weekly News, Ms Aubry advised that they had to set up the number because people had nowhere to report sightings to.Also the society "have been investigating UFOs for over 30 years now" (I doubt if they have ever investigated a case in their lives!) From this it has been established that there are two types of UFO "a saucer-shaped craft with portholes...a cigar-shaped vessel which experts call a mother ship."

A beacon of light shone out on 7 May,when the Bristol Journal did a feature titled "Meet the silly society".At last the tide had turned.Or had it? After not being taken in by the groups claim that they could cure AIDS,without even seeing the victim,the paper were browbeaten into a semi-retraction a week later giving equal space to the Society putting forward their case!

I would be the last to suggest (but I am going to anyway!) that all this had anything to do with an engineered plot (by people with influence and money) to saturate the media before late May,when they knew perfectly well two serious UFO books were coming,plus the major BUFORA congress.As I was told by one national TV station "how do you do a serious feature on UFOs after THAT!" The BBC are, on the other hand,making a 40 minute documentary about the Aetherians,which no ufologist in their right mind should go anywhere near...although they will find one or two who are not in their right minds without much trouble,I guess.

Paranoia? Sour grapes? Maybe. They certainly killed off the visit by Whitley Strieber (see last month's editorial).He was not as visible as he would have been without the Aetherians. And,at a time of high UFO interest,I obtained less press coverage for my 'UFO Conspiracy' book than any of my previous 10,despite the publishers employing a full-time PR agency to handle it.I do find it rather interesting that the Aetherians chose the time they did,to spend the money they did,telling the lies they did,and conning millions in the process.Who is pulling the strings and handling their finance? And have you ever noticed how the people who run this society do not seem to be cranks?They are remarkable intelligent. Too intelligent in my opinion.

What price a desperate attempt to destroy the credibility of the UFO movement, at a time of danger when serious publicity was likely? I wonder.

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NEWS ROUND-UP

:: CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies) have moved to a new home to incorporate the files from NICAP.The new address is:- 2457 W.Peterson, Chicago,IL 60659. U.S.A.
Note also that our own WAPIT has a new address (see list on page 12)
AND WOULD EXHHANGE JOURNALS P L E A S E NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS,VALID SINCE APRIL

:: A recent letter to BUFORA is worth quoting from."I was meandering home last Friday from my local hostelry...At about 1am I was banging on my front door... when there was an ear-piercing soreenh followed by bright stars.I can only briefly remember seeing two 'saucepan shaped craft' hurtling across the sky before seeing the stars...I am sure I witnessed a UFO (I saw 'Close Encounters' so I am quite convinced)...though my wife refuses to discuss the matter and suggests I contact AA rather than yourselves.The funny thing is,I have this lump on the side of my head,wheras the guy in 'Close Encounters' had sunburn...Do you think I have had an extraterrestrial visitation,or as my wife says,too many visits to the pub?" BUFORAs NIC has declined to investigate although a few investigators volunteered for the field research!

SOME GOOD NEWS ON CRACOE FELL

About time too,I hear you say! No,I am not going to discuss this case again. Quite enough has been said and YUFOS continue to talk more than enough nonsense for all of us.But Philip Mantle,overseas liaison officer with the group,and a leading field investigator,has accepted that YUFOS are wrong,the case is solved and for his pains has (naturally) been excommunicated like the rest of us! As the MUFON representative for Britain this was a strangely dumb move by the Yorkshire group.But I am pleased to say that Philip has joined BUFORA,who were glad to have such a fine researcher.His exact role is yet to be determined.

Philip resigned from YUFOS rather than have his fate decreed by others and has set up YUFON (Yorkshire UFO Network).In some respects the situation in Yorkshire is rather like the SDP-Liberal alliance with ever more 'third parties' arriving on the scene.However,YUFON is not a group,as such,but a very small scale team of field investigators - also incorporating David Clarke,BUFORAs AI for South Yorkshire,Dave Kelly,the well known Chesterfield group coordinator and Rodney Howarth from Burnley.I am assured that YUFON will liaise fully with NUFON and BUFORA,and it is hoped they will agree 'territories' with WYUFORG, who seem well suited to handle sightings north of Leeds and with YUFON strong in the south and into Derbyshire this should give a fine coverage by experienced people working without the pretentions of a massive top-heavy 'super group'.

With effect from 8 June YUFON launched its 'Yorkshire UFO Hotline' a 24-hour service on 0924-444049. It guarantees complete confidentiality and goes some way to countering the Aetherius Society fiasco.Incidentally, that organisation offered BUFORA some of its hotline cases to work on in cooperation.At a BUFORA council meeting on 6 June the offer was declined and all logistic support for the Aetherius Society rejected.It is quite clear that cooperation between a serious UFO group and a cult would be detrimental to ufology, however sad the loss of these potential cases might be.

SCOTTISH UFO OPEN DAY

We can now announce more plans for this event, which if you can possibly afford to travel north of the border to attend you should aim to.It will be different.

In order to have a team coordinating the project Malcolm Robinson (BUFORA RIC) and the members of the rock group CE IV have formed the 'Scottish UFO Society',which will work together with SPI (Strange Phenomena Investigations) specifically on UFO events.The address of 102 Ferness Oval, Glasgow, G21 3SE is for this set up,although either this or Malcolm's SPI address (see page 12) can be used for details of the 'Open Day'.

The Open Day will be the first ever combined lecture programme/exhibition/ rock concert devoted to UFOs,in the history (we think!) of the planet.It is likely to receive a lot of promotion around the time,so you would be well advised to reserve a place early.

BUFORA is donating funds to help sponsor the event and a number of people are giving their services freely to make it work.There will be about four lectures; certainly including Albert Budden on the Rowley Regis CE IV case and Jenny Randles on the CE IV in general.Hilary Evans will also hopefully be talking about entities,and Paul Devereux has been invited,but is yet to confirm. The exhibition,part coordinated by Mike Wootten of BUFORA,will include informative and visual displays.And the rock concert to end the day will feature the UFO inspired lyrics and synthesised music of the band CE IV.

Be there,or be square,as they say!

DATE:- 17 OCTOBER 1987 TIME:- 2.00 pm - 10.00 pm

VENUE:- The James Moir Hall,a modern 400 seat concert room which is part of the elegant Marble facade of the Mitchell Theatre complex, Granville Street, Charing Cross in the centre of G L A S G O W.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

COMMUNION By Whitley Strieber £10.95 Century-Hutchinson 300pp,1987

Certainly the book of the moment in the USA,where it has been the number one best-seller for several weeks (the first non-fiction UFO book to achieve that in over thirty years).Its arrival in the UK has predictably been far more reserved and you will not find it on the best-seller shelves,but in among the occult stuff (where all good ufo books go to die).Still it is there and you will probably have less trouble finding it than most British ufo titles.

By best-selling fiction writer,of works such as 'The Wolfen',it recounts his supposedly true story of life long contact with 'The Visitors',aliens who can be seen in the only illustration in the book (the evocative painting on the cover).This memory was only triggered in early 1986 (as you will know from last issues editorial) and remains partial with unanswered questions.It is certainly a well-told tale with excellent writing and vivid word pictures, but no less confusing.

Of course,that is how CE IVs are.This book must rank of significance in being the first direct account by the witness of his encounters,when that witness has sufficient way with words to be able to give describing the indescribable a fair crack.Strieber shows his naivety in places and the British edition suffers from the strained attempts to steer it away from ufology (a desperate ploy by the publishers,I suspect,well aware how hard it is to make money here from UFO titles - bookshops practically groan when you present one to them!)

Let's leave aside the question of how 'true' this true story is.You can only make your own mind up on that by reading it and judging it against the CE IV in general.We have not heard the last of Strieber.A film script of 'Communion' is already being written and a sequel in the offing.Abductions are 'in' (although not as 'in' over here as Century would have liked).Still,it provides a rare treat for a ufologist to be able to go and ask a shop for a book on the subject almost everyone in the trade has heard of!

INTRUDERS By Budd Hopkins $17.95,US, Random House 224pp,Illus,1987

This is only available in the US right now,but it is well worth ordering in.. A specialist bookseller like 'Specialist Knowledge' or Lionel Beer should be able to get copies,and even your bookshop can probably import if big enough.

Hopkins is the abduction case researcher par excellance.His previous book 'Missing Time' never made it here.This one deserves at least the success of "Communion",which it probably won't get,of course.But it is one of the best and most important works by a ufo researcher this decade.Big talk,I know,but justified.Whilst not the ultimate in books about abductions it is far and away the best so far.

The book is lucidly written and exudes conviction,because it sets out carefully how the 'haunting' of one whole family by repeated,multiple CE IVs was investigated and probed with tact,compassion yet incisive thought.All you need to know is here,adequately backed up with references and photographs (lacking in "Communion"). For the first time you see how an abduction grows from an initial puzzling event in the eyes of the researchers.

Hopkins and the psychiatrists he works with have studied over 100 such witnesses now and from this vast experience he has come up with some extraordinary theories.They concern aliens and genetic experiments,but I will not spoil the way they unravel through the book.They are hard to swallow,and I hold back from them.But there is little doubt he makes a serious case that deserves examination. You owe him the hours [and you won't want to take longer!] to read 'Intruders'.

One leading American UFO researcher remarked that after this book we no longer could think of UFO research,for it proved that we were dealing with extraterrestrial studies.If you want to find out why, read 'Intruders'.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL
Major articles elsewhere

BUFORA (With BUFORA sub,£14, 16 South Way Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 9ST)
Arrived together,the Mar Journal TAP includes an interesting look at the witness as an instrument with Bob Digby summarising results of an experiment into the sketches of UFOs and Ken Phillips providing the first hard results of the Anamnesis project...wheras,the May Bulletin has a nice broad range of articles from Albert Budden,Manfred Cassirer,Hilary Evans,Paul Fuller,Robert Moore etc.

UFO BRIGANTIA Mar/Apr (£5.50,6 issues,84 Elland Rd,Brighouse,W.Yks HD6 2QR)
An MIB case in Bradford is one delight,plus David Clarke continuing his review of the Pennine 'mystery helicopter',focusing on cases in the early part of this century.Andy Roberts investigates the UFO HOT LINE promoted by Derek Sampson in February (conveniently forgotten by the press who plugged the Aetherius Society one two months later as the first!- see editorial).And JR describes the truth behind the CONTACT UK/YUFOS lies on the Cheshire photographic case.Not another Cracoe - I trust!

IUR Jan/Feb (£32 US,from CUFOS 2457 W.Peterson,Chicago,IL 60659 USA)
An abduction special with three major articles.Whitley Strieber describes his American tour to promote "Communion" earlier this year and discusses public attitudes to abductees.Budd Hopkins reviews the scope of CE 4 research.And Dr Michael Swords takes a fascinating new look at the possible motives for ET intervention,the scientific credibility of same and various relevant scenarios. Plus physical trace analysis of the Delphos case - a great issue,demonstrating how IUR has become the leading glossy UFO journal post the sad demise of FSR.

FOCUS II-7 (£20,US, from 4219 W.Olive St,Suite 247,Burbank,CA 91505,USA)
Editor Bill Moore is really at the focus this summer.The man behind the Roswell case and leading cover-up researcher in the USA he has been presenting some extraordinary documents from 'deep throat' sources concerning crash/retrievals and autopsies on aliens.If true (and a lot of people in the USA think they are) they PROVE the ET origin of UFOs.Some of the papers are in this current issue and a lot more is promised in the months to come.By the time you read this, some predict, it may already be world headlines.Stay tuned.

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MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye

Yes there were some stories beyond the Aetherius Society insanity.Half a dozen or so did relate to Whitley Strieber's visit.But I shall have more to say on him in the next issue.Meanwhile back to more mundane things.

Western Mail,27 April, had an interesting headline,"Hot weather hits UFO sightings".What hot weather,might be your first question! However,the claim comes from Tony Mann,BUFORA South Wales coordinator,who blamed the slump in cases on this.The rather strange article has a number of odd claims - including the comment that only 20 people attend BUFORAs London lectures (the June one, which I chaired,had them standing in the aisles and between 60 and 100 is common) As for this 'hot weather',Tony's theory is that people are so happy doing other things in it,they aren't looking for UFOs.What other things,I'd like to know!

Meanwhile "Aliens using hypnosis in rural Surrey" the Kingston Guardian,2 April (not 1 April), informs us.In an exclusive interview veteran UFO spotter, Peter Wain, claimed that "outer space aliens" put witnesses under a psychic trance "to calm them down and prevent interrogation".

Shutting him up was not what aliens had in mind with Glasgow singer,Rikki Peebles.The man who won the inane 'song for Europe' contest on the BBC told the Daily Mail,13 April,that his dirge 'Only the light' describes his close encounter and the lyrics were given him by the aliens (evidently Irish aliens out to ensure that Eire won the competition) Rikki,who also now has psychic powers ,

knew that he would win the international competition in Brussels.By a 9 May preview in the Weekly News this was toned down to his song being 'inspired' by seeing a light in the sky.But I was fascinated because Peebles (who admits to being a paranormal buff) made his statement just two weeks after my piece hit the bookstores in 'The Supernatural',reviewing the case of the group CE IV (also from Glasgow!) and how their lyrics were inspired by the aliens. Now it could not just be a coincidence, could it? One wonders if Mr P happened to pick up a copy of the article and have a bright idea to hype his plodding tune.

Sadly the alien magic failed.He and Britain came 13th.But I do hear that 'Only the light' is roaring up the charts on Alpha Centauri.The Fish men love it, too!

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BRIEF CASES:-

Some current investigations

BUFOS Case 8425 July 8 1984 22.00 Hathersage,Derbyshire Level C E.Lee SP 6-6

Two men and a teenage girl staying at a farm on the Derbyshire/S.Yorkshire borders saw a red glowing disc approach from the south.It seemed to be about

12-15 ft in diameter and glowed different shades of red inside.Whatever caused this effect it did not appear to spin or oscillate and was totally silent. It varied in speed,from almost stationary to quite rapid,as it headed towards them at about 40 ft above ground level.At closest approach it was only feet away and clearly seen to have a silver rim.Immediate impressions given by this was that the 'craft' was a small helicopter,but closer inspection revealed no windows,doors or protrusions.At closest approach th the farmhouse it flipped around 180 degrees in an anti-clockwise direction,revealing the opposite face,then headed east,skirted round the courtyard and headed off north over a hill.At proximity the witnesses guaged its width to be about 4 ft. Total duration was around 3 minutes.Speculations of a balloon might arise,but it is interesting to see comparisons with other cases.The link with the flying camera case at Stockport,reported last issue,is there.Clive Potter notes the similarity with the daylight 'doughnut' seen by Graham Hall and family in Hinckley,Leciestershire,just two days before the above - and I am reminded of Paul Fuller's Isle of Wight case (see UFO WORLD '86), from May 1985,which strongly implied an RPV (remotely piloted vehicle). Was this one too?

MUFORA Case 8424 Autumn 1984 21.00 Colborne,Lancashire Level C SP 3-5

Man and wife walking to pub observed a large orange light in the sky above a pond by the Colborne mine.It did not move and was lost when houses obscurred it after about 10 mins.They spoke to friends in the pub,but got funny looks. The sky was clear but it did not return,suggesting it was not a star/planet - although this cannot be confirmed without a date.Witnesses only reported after reading 'Pennine UFO Mystery',finding a similar Colborne case,and wondering if what they saw had anything todo with mining activity (eg an earthlight).

RETURN OF THE HUMADRUZ

Unhappily,beyond a quite detailed letter,the witness to this 'sounding' has not responded,despite claiming to possess audible evidence.Any reader in the vicinity of 191 Yew Tree Lane,West Derby,Liverpool,might try to contact Mr LM Drury.He claims that he returned FROM the pub at around midnight on the 2/3 Nov 1986 ("I had not been drinking too much").After saying goodnight to the dog he was in bed trying to drop off when he heard a funny noise outside."Was it a UFO?" he asks.He ran downstairs for his fathers cassette recorder and disturbed the dog (apparently unperturbed by the noise).It was now 00.20 and he opened the window to tape the sound,but it did not record too well "due to taping music too loud (on the same tape)" Nothing,except clouds,was visible in the sky.It was "like a sound on a tropical island with birds or a tractor or a helicopters blades rotating around".It went louder and quieter at intervals.It ceased very

suddenly.Oddly,an identical event (tape recording a phantom sound in the night) oocurred at Hough Green in the same part of Merseyside.Investigation at the time (about 13 years ago) revealed the possibility that night work on the rail lines might be responsible.However,the 'Humadrum' is a familiar thing to seasoned (ie ancient!) paranormal researchers,like me.Mystery sounds like this have plagued many British homes and received many bizarre explanations.(There is a little on this in my book 'Sixth Sense') Any ideas??? Bar a UFO!

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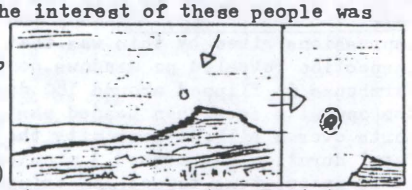
BUFORA Case 8639 November 24 1986 23.20 Alwalton,Cambs Level D SP 3-6

Very rational report submitted to Arnold West,also reported to RAF Wittering, but sadly only LITS.Man and wife driving on A 605 SW from Peterborough saw two bright white lights ("larger than venus") with a third fainter light under one.They drifted off NE.Two more (or the same) lights were seen again 15 mins later,and an aircraft which allowed comparison (it had navigation lights in plain view).Despite the calibre of the witnesses this case offers nothing that is not potentially explicable as aircraft with searchlights or flares in a military operation,since there are bases in the area.

A NEW NORTH YORKSHIRE PHOTOGRAPH! (But don't hold your breath)
Case 8701 February 28 1987 16.45 Roseberry Topping,N.Yorks Lev B SP 5-1

Written material and phone calls from the photographer,Ian T,oddly viaathird party,revealed this case.Mr T is described as a publisher of books on all manner of esoteric subjects and so,when he received the prints back of his visit to Roseberry Topping,the evocative Dales hill,he immediately wondered if the 'grey smudge' on one was some kind of UAP.The interest of these people was genuine,even if inevitably prompted by their background.But nothing was seen at the time, as Mr T faced north and filmed the southern face of the hill.The oval grey object is not unlike that in the famous Andy Collins pix taken in North Wales when Gaynor Sunderland was present (see 'Alien Contact',for example) And it was not thought to be a developing fault,acoording to the chemist which processed it.Obtaining the negatives,MUFORA had the image enlarged in different densities and studied this and adjacent prints.Whilst mist obscurred some of the sharpness of the hill the 'UFO' was blurred and appears out of focus (suggesting,if a real object,proximity to the lens).Upon enlargement study this idea (of a speck on the lens) was rejected,because the 'UFO' had the classic signs of a mark on the negative (central white hole,umbra and penumbra). It was calculated that even if we were talking about a real object in the middle distance (ie not as far away as the hill) it would be around 20 ft in diamater and hard to miss with the naked eye.However,the clincher came by inspection of the rest of the film.Several identical marks appeared,clearly showing that this was a hole in the negative,probably caused by a processing fault or a film defect.Indeed one was found that looked far more like a UFO than the 'real''UFO'! Hopefully the 'witnesses' accept this verdict and we shall not see THIS North Yorkshire UFO in the national press,or on TV-AM.



Case 8702 April 21 1987 23.45 Hartlepool,Cleveland Level B DC Lowdon SP 4-3

Another in a long series of Hartlepool LITS (see NUNs last year,for example) First reported in the 'Hartlepool Mail' which told how Denis Proud, a tyre repairer,along with his 20 year old son, saw the yellow light move west-east, stop in front of the house,then shoot off south.Three minutes later it (or a similar object) moved towards the sea,split in two and the bottom object fell to earth.The first one moved away at great speed.Around the same time John Buttery,a retired steel worker,was out with his dog at the back of Gulliver Rd. He,and a young man passing by,watched three orange lights which came from the west,the side two 'peeled off' west and east and all three were lost over the horizon as several people now watched.Mr Buttery was convinced that they were 'alien craft'.DC Lowdon spoke to these witnesses, one of whom alleged that the

central light (the one that did not 'peel off') LANDED behind a hill.Next day she and a friend (who uses a crystal for psychic purposes!) went to look.Nothing (except 'strong crystal vibrations') was found.Denis Proud sent his own written account.He gave a similar account to that in the press,but added that when the light hovered it changed from orange/yellow to white.The light that fell also fell towards the sea,not earth.Several subsequent sights are described by him (between 30 April and 3 May).They seem to have involved bright meteors and possibly a bright planet,although it is hard to tell (in particular with one that 'lit up his bedroom'). Newcastle Airport did comment that an MoD exercise was on at the time of the April 21 sightings and the three orange lights seem very like jets with afterburn,or quieter helicopters with searchlights.The object dropped into the sea may well have been a flare. In the absence of further evidence the case must be regarded as explained, although DC Lowdon himself suggests a connection with a fault line one mile from the observation point on Gulliver Road.

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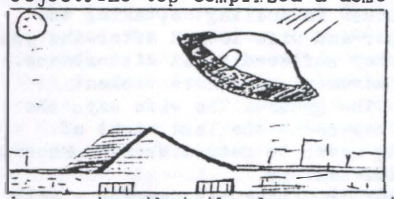
CASE HISTORIES

THE SHOOTING STAR THAT WASN'T MUFORA Case 6729 Shrewsbury,Shropshire

Mrs K was 23 at the time with her (now ex) husband.It was summer 1967,a clear,moonlit night at about 23.30.They had just stepped off the last bus following a visit to relatives.Strolling along,chatting,Mrs K looked up at the moon and saw a movement to the right.Thinking it was a shooting star she pointed it out to her husband.He got the same momentary impression, but then it slowed up dramatically,approaching from the NE and descending at a steep angle.Then it stopped and hovered in position,tilted at a slight angle to the horizontal.

In this position they were both quite able to get an excellent view of the object.The top comprised a dome and the base a dark flange.No detail was seen on the bottom at any point during the estimated 1-3 minute duration (nobody was watching the time!) It essentially glowed an orange colour but there was a window in the lower part of the dome that emitted light similar in texture and brightness to that from behind curtains in a house.This 'window' seemed to be appearing and disappearing every few seconds,giving the impression that the dome was rotating.No other markings were detected on the object,and although it hovered in this position at a relatively low height no sound whatsoever was heard."The sight of it remains fresh in my memory as if it were yesterday",Mrs K says.



When it stopped the movement was instantaneous,defying aerodynamics.Mr and Mrs K felt that it had spotted them,but now she is not sure if it was not perhaps simply deciding which way to go.It left,after an unknown period of hover, in a very curious fashion.First it swung back like a pendulum,away from the direction intended,then it "skimmed off across the rooftops" heading west. This 'falling leaf' motion is often recorded in close encounters,so called because of the similarity with a very light (almost weightless) leaf,drifting down through air currents.Mrs K appears not to be aware of this.

This can be seen as one of those classic UFO sightings which pose no real choice.If the witness is sincere then they saw a 'craft' of unknown origin which behaves in a rational,apparently intelligent manner, consistant with other cases.The sort of event that makes ufologists sit up and take note after hundreds of LITS, getting that old sense of 'yes - something is going on'.

But this experience, like many close encounters,takes on deeper dimensions when you look below the surface.Mrs K,for example,adds on her form that she has "precognition,which I don't understand" and later elaborates that she has "over many years" undergone "strange trance like states" without warning and which last a second or two.There are hints here of narcoleptic and epileptic

fugue states often reported in the history of CE witnesses (eg abduotee Alan Godfrey). But in these states Mrs K has premonitions, often extremely trivial in nature when they ultimately work out. This psychio profile of a witness is, of course, very common to the closest encounters and clearly important.

More intriguingly, when asked about feelings before, during and after the encounter (a standard question in search of the Oz Factor), Mrs K says she was 'elated' afterwards, but puzzled during the experience because, "it seemed odd that there was no traffic on the road, not a person in sight, which to us was very strange for a Saturday night as we lived on a main road and knew the volume of traffic. ∴ It was as if everything had come to a standstill."

Taking these symptoms together, this is a case that cries out for deeper exploration using regression hypnosis via a qualified psychologist. If Mrs K is interested in pursuing this option then we shall see what can be learnt.

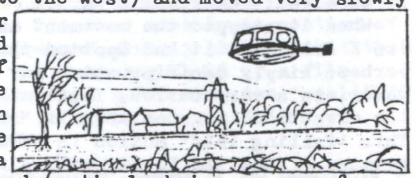
ENCOUNTER AT THE BUTLEY ASH MUFORA Case 8178 Investigation: Roy Sandbach

September (16) 1981 08.00 Butley, Prestbury, Cheshire Level A SP 7-7

Yet another in the splurge of cases from the Macclesfield area, this is a daylight encounter that comes from the stockbroker belt 2 miles north of the town, involving Mr Phoenix (landlord of the 'Ash Tree' at Butley Town, near the high class village of Prestbury, and a place frequented by airline pilots from Manchester Airport - five miles north-west). But for the 'tip-off' by the witness to the December 1980 case (see NUN 123) this would almost certainly never have reached our ears.

The pub, incidentally, is reputed to be haunted. Mr P and his wife took over the old building in the sixties and were soon disturbed by footsteps tramping about. As soon as they got used to them, after initial fear, they died out. The pub also has a 'creepy spot' in the hall, where customers refuse to sit- even strangers unaware of the history. A Toby Jug also used to frequently move itself overnight. Since the Phoenix family moved to a house in Bollington, taking the ornament, it has not moved. But when Mr P's brother and wife looked after the pub for two weeks, to give the landlord a holiday, they suffered great disturbance. These include the footsteps, poltergeist object movements and more violent attacks ~~including~~, they claim, being thrown to the ground! The wife says she was pinned to the wall by an unseen force and they spent the last night of their stay with the light on all the time, vowing never to return! When Mr Phoenix got back from holiday the disturbances ceased immediately.

On the morning of (we think) 16 September 1981 Mr P took his dog for a walk down the main A 523 to the junction with the B 5091 Bollington road. As the dog was sniffing a hedge, Mr P was amazed to see a disc-like object appear in the sky low down. It was over Prestbury village (to the west) and moved very slowly towards him, eventually coming to a halt over power lines. It was now very low and he could see it in graphic detail. This was circular of about 50-60 ft diameter with a flat, dark base and curved windows, like a 'beer-glass' which were 'brilliantly shiny'. A dark line was at the bottom, on the end of which was an arm with a box-like object protruding. This slowly revolved (anti-clockwise as seen from below). The entire thing was extremely vivid and startling. It looked to be 'scanning for something'.



As this was happening a young man on a bicycle arrived and said "My God, whats that!" After about two minutes (during which traffic passed by on the road oblivious to it!) the rotating arm stopped moving and the object crossed the road, headed east to Bollington, but stopped again over power lines on the other side of the road, returned and headed east towards Alderley Edge.

Rushing back to the pub Mr Phoenix told his wife, but by the time she got out it had gone. He was very shaken, she says. That evening he told pub regulars, most of whom chuckled, except one. He had a lightplane based at Ringway and immediately called the Met Office to check on weather balloons. They had none. Airline pilots in the pub were very wary of talking UFOs, although Mr Phoenix says he

sometimes hears them talking quietly amongst themselves on the subject. He has tried to trace the cyclist, but lost his address. The dog showed no response to the object at all. There does not seem any obvious explanation for this case.

ALIEN PLANS FOR THE END OF THE WORLD Report by Clive Potter

Something strange is afoot in Britain. All over the land groups are being gathered together to prepare for Armageddon by unknown 'alien' intelligences. Using psychic channels they are being urged to seek out burried artifacts, protect the earth and (if necessary) escape under guidance after the nuclear holocaust, due in the next decade.

If this sounds like a plot from 'The Omen-99' or some other crumby movie, hold fire. Whatever the reality behind this phenomenon it is increasing in strength and there are groups like this all over the country, often unaware of the others. 'The Green Stone' quest may seem bizarre, but it is less bizarre when compared with the others. My book on the theme ('The Children of Armageddon') MAY appear (the publisher who contracted it threw it back, appalled that I would consider destroying my credibility, and theirs, by discussing such absurdities!) If it ever does, then you will know that what Clive Potter is up to, in and around Coventry, is not as ludicrous as it sounds.

In a very detailed report he explains how he has been 'taken into' a group of a dozen being gathered there by two psychics (Graham and his nephew Tom). Clive, of course, does not swallow whole the various ideas being mooted, but feels it is something that must be studied. Apparently several others in 'the twelve' are equally cautious but curious.

Graham's encounters began at Meriden, Warwickshire, in January 1960, although he was psychic long before then. On this occasion he saw an 'airship' with 'pilots' on board and three months later was met on a road by a bright light, which turned out to be a being wearing a very shiny suit ('like armour'). It had an elongated head and was handsome, but did not speak. He hastened past it.

But the real events seem to have begun early one morning in April 1979 when he opened the curtains downstairs to find a 'spider man'. It was very tall, thin and with spindly legs and four spindly arms. The face was hairy! This weird 'thing' communicated by telepathy about future tasks and then left by walking behind the rear of the garden. Graham was terrified of this creature, because he knew immediately that it was a living thing. Had it been supernatural, in the same way as his many 'visions' over the years, he would have reacted better and given chase. As it was he felt disturbed.

In a series of communications which he believes to come from these aliens he has been lead to set up this team and develop its 'channeling' to find these buried artifacts (like the Meonia stone and the swords now popping up all over England - although he claims not to have read either 'The Green Stone' or 'The Eye of Fire'). These are then to restore the earth in some way to try to prevent Armageddon, the date of which (in the nineties) he knows, but cannot yet reveal. If this fails the team are to be evacuated to a safe spot to await their task of bringing the planet back into a new era.

It is certainly fascinating how similar this tale is to many others that are going on in the esoteric community. Whether or not they reflect some real guidance by powers unknown, or a working out of psychic perception of the times to come, or some strange mass psychosis, is hard to say. But it does deserve study. It may even be that in these days when pure ufology is on the decline this mania for 'quests' is the great new paranormal phenomenon that will replace our subject. Or is that speculating too far?

AN APOLOGY: THIS ISSUE OF NORTHERN UFO NEWS IS SLIGHTLY LATE AND FOUR PAGES SHORT. THE REASONS WERE MY HOUSE MOVE, A THREE WEEK TOUR PROMOTING 'THE UFO CONSPIRACY' AND THEN A FURTHER THREE WEEKS IN THE USA. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THIS EMERGENCY ISSUE WAS NO ISSUE AT ALL. SO PLEASE ACCEPT THIS MAKESHIFT SOLUTION. BACK TO NORMAL FROM JUL/AUG, AND WE'LL HOPEFULLY CATCH UP MISSING PAGES.

FINAL WORDS

** Talking of hotlines and opinion polls (the most talked about topics of a wet and wash out June!) some news I've held over on those fronts. In the USA they have a Hotline number (0101-213-976-8367 if you can afford to dial from the UK). At the end of the phone TV cowboy detective 'McCloud' (alias actor Dennis Weaver) meanders on about the latest cases.

Poll-wise there was a study by the National Science Foundation in Illinois that discovered why people didn't understand science. In the process they were staggered to learn that 50 per cent of Americans believed in UFOs. Meantime Gallup in conservative Britain (pardon the pun) found belief well down at just 19 per cent. Now Strieber knows why his book isn't selling! Of this the breakdown was 23 per cent of men and 16 per cent only of women (probably, I suspect, because the aging Gallup interrogators asked about 'Flying Saucers' and few sensible, non gullible women believe in them, even if they do believe in UFOs - right?) (The SDP voters, incidentally, turned out to be the ones most likely to believe in UFOs - perhaps banking on an abduction as their best hope of getting rid of Mrs Thatcher)

Meanwhile the SSPR are doing computer statistics on 230 public opinion questionnaires they obtained last year. I've been waiting to see if they sent more results. So far, they tell me, percentages for actual experiences were telepathy (23%), ghosts (10%) (Gallup found 12% on this question), UFOs (7.5%) and poltergeist (4.6%). But there was a 50 per cent above expectation link, making those who experienced telepathy more likely to see a UFO. Interesting. (Incidentally, if 7.5% of the British population have seen UFOs that makes over FOUR MILLION cases... BUFORA files contain 15,000 only - which suggests that a staggering 99.6 % of British UFO sightings are not in the largest UFO data base in this country.... I think quite a point to ponder on till next time)

CALENDAR

Peter Warrington asks me to point out that the garden party/seminar for 25 July is cancelled. Apparently, apart from MUFORA members and one other person, not a single NUN reader was interested in the Manchester debate. Pity. If you were, but never got around to writing to Peter, then do so NOW - and perhaps he will resurrect it for the future:- 5 North Ave, Burnage, Manchester M19 2WR

The 1987-88 BUFORA lecture programme is finalised with some hot items. As usual they will be at the London Business School, home of the congress, the first Saturday in each month (6.30-9.30 pm). It kicks off on September 5 with Peter Warrington - although he is keeping his topic secret. (Perhaps it will be the apathy of Northern UFO News readers?) From then on we have Oct (Tim Good - 'Above Top Secret'), Nov (Bob Coutte - magic and the paranormal), Dec (Andy Roberts on, sssh, Gracoe Fell), Jan (Tony Cornell, ghost hunter), Feb (Dr Ray Leonard on ET UFOs), Mar (John Rimmer), Apr (Guy Lyon Playfair on mind and magic), May (Philip Taylor, astronomy and UFOs), Jun (Martin Shough, the reality of UFOs). But don't forget, before all that.....>

Jul 10/11/12 London Business School Fourth International UFO Congress THE event. Dont miss it... Regents Park Outer Circle, near Baker Street tube.

UFO RESEARCH NORTH...NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	4	Woodlea Pk, Branshill, Sauchie, By Alloa FK10 3BG	
NLUFOIG	(N.Lancs/Cmbria)	89	Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire LA 4 6HN	
WAPIT	(S.Lancs)	16	Sinclair Place, Pemberton, Wigan, Lancs WN 5 9SP	**
MUFORA	(G.Mcr/Cheshre)	6	Silsden Ave, Lowton, Gtr Manchester WA 3 1EN	
WYUFORG	(N.Yorks)	19	Bellmount Gardens, Bramley, West Yorks LS13 2ND	
YUFON	(W.Yorks)	106	Lady Ann Rd, Soothill, Batley, W. Yorks WF17 0PY	
SSPR	(S.Yorks)	17	Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield, S.Y S 31 8RW	
LUFOIC	(E.Midlands)	31	Grove Rd Leicester Leics LE 5 3HJ	